Supreme Court, U.S.
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No. 05-

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 2005

CECILIA GONZALEZ,

Petiitoner,

v.

BMG MUSIC, SONY ENTERTAINMENT INC., UMG RECORDINGS, INC., FONOVISA, INC. AND ATLANTIC RECORDING CORP.

Respondents.

Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the
United States Court of Appeals
For the Seventh Circuit

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI

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QUESTION PRESENTED

Whether 17 U.S.C. § 504(c) and 17 U.S.C. § 402(d) unconstitutionally proscribe the Seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution and its guarantee of a right to a jury trial when a plaintiff in a copyright infringement action seeks damages.

PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDINGS

Cecilia Gonzalez was Defendant-Appellant below and is the petitioner in this Court.

BMG MUSIC, a New York general partnership; SONY MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT, INC., a Delaware corporation; UMG RECORDINGS, INC., a Delaware corporation; FONOVISA, INC., a California corporation; and ATLANTIC RECORDING CORPORATION, a Delaware corporation were Plaintiffs-Appellees below and are the respondents in this Court.

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PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI

Cecilia Gonzalez petitions for a writ of certiorari to review the judgment of the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in this case.

OPINIONS BELOW

The opinion of the Court of Appeals is reported at 430 F.3d 888 and is reprinted in the appendix hereto ("App.") at 1a. The order of the District Court awarding judgment to the respondent is unreported and is reprinted at App. 10a.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the Court of Appeals was entered on December 9, 2005. App. 1a. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1254(1). Pursuant to Rule 14.1(e)(v), the Solicitor General of the United States has been served with this petition.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED

The Seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution provides:

> In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of common law.

17 U.S.C. § 504(c) provides, in pertinent part:

> (1) Except as provided by clause (2) of this subsection, the copyright owner may elect, at any time before final judgment is rendered, to recover, instead of actual damages and profits, an award of statutory damages for all infringements involved in the action, with respect to any one work, for which any one infringer is liable individually, or for which any two or more infringers are liable jointly and severally, in a sum of not less than $750 or more than $30,000 as the court considers just. For the

> ...oses of this subsection, all the parts of a compilation or derivative work constitute one work.
>
> (2) In a case where the infringer sustains the burden of proving, and the court finds, that such infringer was not aware and had no reason to believe that his or her acts constituted an infringement of copyright, the court in its discretion may reduce the award of statutory damages to a sum of not less than $200.

17 U.S.C. § 402(d) provides:

> If a notice of copyright in the form and position specified by this subsection appears on the published phonorecord or phonorecords to which a defendant in a copyright infringement suit had access, then no weight shall be given to such a defendant's interposition of a defense based on innocent infringement in mitigation of actual or statutory damages.

INTRODUCTION

This petition asks the Court to resolve the issue of whether the guaranteed right to a trial by jury, embodied in the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution, can be taken away by Congress' enactment of statutes prescribing damages in a copyright infringement case. According to this Court's decision in *Feltner v. Columbia Pictures*, "the Seventh Amendment provides a right to a jury trial on all issues pertinent to an award of statutory damages under §504(c) of the Copyright Act, including the amount itself." *Feltner*, 523 U.S. 340, 355 (1998). "The right to a jury trial includes the right to have a jury determine the amount of statutory damages, if any, awarded to the copyright owner." *Id.* at 353.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Petitioner Cecilia Gonzalez is a twenty-eight year old mother of five children, ranging in age from two to eleven years. She is an immigrant, with a ninth grade education who learned English only as a second language. In March 2003, Ms. Gonzalez invested in a computer for her family. For several weeks in 2003, the family maintained in home high-speed internet access. At first, the access was not cost prohibitive, but within three months, the cost of the high-speed internet access doubled. Ms. Gonzalez decided to turn it off.

During the brief time that Ms. Gonzalez had high-speed internet access, she downloaded music using a program called KaZaA. Ms. Gonzalez downloaded music from the internet to research music that she wanted to purchase or to put music that she already owned on her computer. KaZaA did not provide Ms. Gonzalez the option of previewing a song before downloading it. Thus, when downloading

music for her pre-purchasing research, Ms. Gonzalez was unable to download less than the complete song. Ms. Gonzalez had, and has, minimal knowledge of computers. She speaks English as a second language. She believed that KaZaA was providing the music to her legally. It is undisputed that Ms. Gonzalez was not sharing the songs that she downloaded and she did not even know that the music came from other KaZaA users' computers. She did not browse others' files. Nor did she create a library of songs on CD. Primarily, Ms. Gonzalez was merely replicating songs, the vast majority of which she already owned, for personal enjoyment. Additionally, she researched songs for additional purchases of compact disks. Ms. Gonzalez no longer downloads music (or anything else) from the internet because she does not have internet access.

Respondent BMG Music, et al ("BMG") brought a copyright infringement action against petitioner, Cecilia Gonzalez. After limited discovery, the district court granted summary judgment on liability and damages in favor of BMG. App. 9a. Gonzalez opposed the motion for summary judgment, noting that under *Feltner v. Columbia Pictures*, the Seventh Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees a right to a jury trial on all issues pertinent to damages. 523 U.S. 340 (1998). Gonzalez also noted that genuine issues of material fact remained on her fair use defense. The district court, relying on *dicta* from decisions in secondary liability cases, instead of evidence in the record, granted BMG's motion for summary judgment, awarding $22,500 in damages under 17 U.S.C. §504(c) and entering a permanent injunction.

On appeal, Ms. Gonzalez renewed her argument that she was entitled to trial by jury on all issues pertinent to damages under the Seventh Amendment. Gonzalez specifically argued that 17 U.S.C. §402(d)

unconstitutionally proscribes a jury trial on issues pertinent to damages in a copyright infringement action and that the District Court erred as a matter of law by denying Gonzalez the opportunity to present her fair use defense to a jury where material issues of fact remained. The Court of Appeals rejected both arguments. The court read "*Feltner* as establishing no more (and no less) than that cases under §504(c) are normal civil actions subject to the normal allocation of functions between judge and jury... if there is no material dispute and a rule of law eliminates discretion in selecting the remedy, then summary judgment is permissible." App. 7a. The court concluded that a jury is not required to determine the amount of damages because BMG requested the minimum statutory damages under §504(c), in light of §402(d). *Id.*

REASON FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

THE COURT SHOULD CORRECT THE ERROR IN THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT IN FAILING TO FOLLOW THE RULING OF THIS COURT AND THE SEVENTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The question presented by this case is related to the issue resolved by *Feltner v. Columbia Pictures*, 523 U.S. 340 (1998). In an attempt to limit this Court's holding, the Seventh Circuit concluded that *Feltner* does not require a jury trial when 17 U.S.C. §402(d) applies and the minimum statutory damages are sought. App. 7a. Allowing the Seventh Circuit's decision to stand will encourage additional erroneous decisions at both the district and circuit court levels and will undermine the Seventh Amendment right to a jury trial in all copyright infringement cases.

This Court should grant this petition because the decision of the Seventh Circuit conflicts with this Court's holding in *Feltner* and contravenes an important Constitutional right, the right to jury trial. From the inception of this country, Americans have recognized that the right to trial by jury protects citizens from the tyranny of the powerful. The abrogation of the right to trial by jury was one of the American colonists' principal complaints against King George III. The right to a jury trial was specifically referenced in the Declaration of Independence (Declaration of Independence ¶ 20 (1776)) and was one of the few rights on which there was universal agreement by the Framers of the Constitution: "The friends and adversaries of the plan of the convention, if they agree in nothing else, concur at least in the value they set upon the trial by jury; or if there is any difference between them it consists in this: the former regard it as a valuable safeguard to liberty; the latter represent it is the very palladium of free government. *The Federalist No. 83*, at 499 (Clinton Rossiter ed. 1961). As Thomas Jefferson wrote, the right to a jury is "the only anchor yet imagined by man, by which a gc ernment can be held to the principles of its constitution." 3 *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson* 71 (Washington ed. 1861).

In *Feltner*, this Court examined the long history of the right to a jury trial, concluding that "there is overwhelming evidence that the consistent practice at common law was for juries to award damages." *Feltner* at 353. This was the consistent practice in copyright cases, "juries assessed the amount of damages under the Copyright Act of 1831, even though that statute, like the Copyright Act of 1790, fixed damages at a set amount per infringing sheet." *Id.* at 354 (emphasis added).

Feltner held that "the Seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees the right to a jury trial on all issues pertinent to an award of statutory

damages under §504(c) of the Copyright Act, including the amount itself." *Id.* at 355. "The right to a jury trial includes the right to have a jury determine the amount of statutory damages, if any, awarded to the copyright owner." *Id.* at 353.

After *Feltner*, the ninth circuit recognized this Court's decision, declaring that, "to the extent §504(c) fails to provide a jury trial right, it violates the Seventh Amendment and is therefore unconstitutional." *Columbia Pictures Television, Inc. v. Krypton Broadcasting of Birmingham, Inc.*, 259 F.3d 1186, 1192 (9th Cir. 2001).

In light of the clear historical evidence that copyright cases involving monetary relief were tried before juries and this Court's ruling in *Feltner*, Section 402(d) of the Copyright Act unconstitutionally removes the petitioner's right to a jury trial. *Feltner* at 350-53. 504(c)(2) entitles an alleged infringer to prove that she was innocent, that there was no reason to believe or that she was not aware that her activities constituted copyright infringement. Whether an alleged infringer is innocent is a question of fact, which must be decided by a jury under both the Seventh Amendment and *Feltner*. To the extent that §402(d) removes that decision from the jury it is unconstitutional.

Here, the Seventh Circuit reasoned that since BMG requested the minimum damages under 17 U.S.C. §504, and since Gonzalez had access to the copyright notice under §402(d), she was not entitled to a jury trial under *Feltner*. App. 7a.

> We read *Feltner* as establishing no more (and no less) than that cases under §504(c) are normal civil actions subject to the normal allocation of functions between judge and jury. When there is a material dispute of fact to be resolved or discretion to be exercised in selecting a financial

> award, then either side is entitled to a jury; if there is no material dispute and a rule of law eliminates discretion in selecting the remedy, then summary judgment is permissible.

App. 7a. The Seventh Circuit dismissed the language in *Feltner*, "[t]he right to a jury trial includes the right to have a jury determine the *amount* of statutory damages, if any, awarded to the copyright owner." 523 U.S. at 353 (emphasis in original). The Seventh Circuit claims that this language was merely "a general description of the jury's role, which the Court drew from seventeenth-century English jurisprudence." App. 7a. On the contrary, this language protects alleged copyright infringers' right to have a jury decide the amount of damages "if any" that are due to the copyright owner.

As the music industry launches its assault on home recording of copyrighted materials, whether an individual has the right to a jury trial to determine innocent infringement is paramount. If the music industry is allowed to collect damages in the amount of $750.00 for each song that was allegedly downloaded for noncommercial home use, then individuals are effectively denied their right to defend the accusation as innocent before a jury. If a jury determined that infringement was innocent, it could reduce the damages award to as little as $200.00. The jury, not Congress, is in the best position to make such determinations. To the extent that Congress, in enacting § 402(d), removed that decision-making function from the jury, Congress eroded the Seventh Amendment right to a jury trial.

Resolution of this Constitutional question is of great importance. As this Court knows, "[m]aintenance of the jury as a fact-finding body is of such importance and occupies so firm a place in our history and jurisprudence

that any seeming curtailment of the right to a jury trial should be scrutinized with the utmost care." *Beacon Theatres*, 359 U.S. 500, 501 (1959) (quoting *Dimick v. Schiedt*, 293 U.S. 474, 486 (1935)).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the petition for a writ of certiorari should be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

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[1] The Admissions Clerk of this Court has received the application of Counsel for Petitioner for admission to the bar of this Court. Counsel for Petitioner has not yet been notified of his acceptance to that bar, but foresees no hurdle to such admission and signs and submits this petition based on his filed application for admission. No other lawyerrepresenting Petitioner is a member of the bar of this Court.

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APPENDICES

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT

No. 05-1314

BMG MUSIC, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs-Appellees

v.

CECILIA GONZALEZ,

Defendant-Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
No. 03 C 6276 – Blanch M. Manning, *Judge*

Argued October 27, 2005 – Decided December 9, 2005

Before EASTERBROOK, EVANS, and WILLIAMS,
Circuit Judges

EASTERBROOK, *Circuit Judge*. Last June the Supreme Court held in *MGM Studios, Inc. v. Grokster, Ltd.*, --- U.S. ----, 125 S.Ct. 2764, 162 L.Ed.2d 781 (2005), that a distributed file-sharing system is engaged in contributory copyright infringement when its principal object is the dissemination of copyrighted material. The foundation of this holding is a belief that people who post or download music files are primary infringers. *In re Aimster Copyright Litigation*, 334 F.3d 643, 645 (7th Cir.2003), which anticipated *Grokster*, made the same assumption. In this appeal Cecilia Gonzalez, who

downloaded copyrighted music through the KaZaA file-sharing network, denies the premise of *Grokster* and *Aimster*. She contends that her activities were fair use rather than infringement. The district court disagreed and granted summary judgment for the copyright proprietors (to which we refer collectively as BMG Music). 2005 WL 106592, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 910 (N.D.Ill. Jan. 7, 2005). The court enjoined Gonzalez from further infringement and awarded $22,500 in damages under 17 U.S.C. § 504(c).

A "fair use" of copyrighted material is not infringement. Gonzalez insists that she was engaged in fair use under the terms of 17 U.S.C. § 107--or at least that a material dispute entitles her to a trial. It is undisputed, however, that she downloaded more than 1,370 copyrighted songs during a few weeks and kept them on her computer until she was caught. Her position is that she was just sampling music to determine what she liked enough to buy at retail. Because this suit was resolved on summary judgment, we must assume that Gonzalez is telling the truth when she says that she owned compact discs containing some of the songs before she downloaded them and that she purchased others later. She concedes, however, that she has never owned legitimate copies of 30 songs that she downloaded. (How many of the remainder she owned is disputed.)

Instead of erasing songs that she decided not to buy, she retained them. It is these 30 songs about which there is no dispute concerning ownership that formed the basis of the damages award. This is not a form of time-shifting, along the lines of *Sony Corp. of America v. Universal City Studios, Inc.*, 464 U.S. 417, 104 S.Ct. 774, 78 L.Ed.2d 574 (1984) (*Betamax*). A copy downloaded, played, and

retained on one's hard drive for future use is a direct substitute for a purchased copy--and without the benefit of the license fee paid to the broadcaster. The premise of *Betamax* is that the broadcast was licensed for one transmission and thus one viewing. *Betamax* held that shifting the time of this single viewing is fair use. The files that Gonzalez obtained, by contrast, were posted in violation of copyright law; there was no license covering a single transmission or hearing--and, to repeat, Gonzalez kept the copies. Time-shifting by an authorized recipient this is not. See William M. Landes & Richard A. Posner, *The Economic Structure of Intellectual Property Law* 117-22 (2003).

Section 107 provides that when considering a defense of fair use the court must take into account "(1) the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes; (2) the nature of the copyrighted work; (3) the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and (4) the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work." Gonzalez was not engaged in a nonprofit use; she downloaded (and kept) whole copyrighted songs (for which, as with poetry, copying of more than a couplet or two is deemed excessive); and she did this despite the fact that these works often are sold per song as well as per album. This leads her to concentrate on the fourth consideration: "the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work."

As she tells the tale, downloading on a try-before-you-buy basis is good advertising for copyright proprietors, expanding the value of their inventory. The Supreme Court thought otherwise in *Grokster*, with

considerable empirical support. As file sharing has increased over the last four years, the sales of recorded music have dropped by approximately 30%. Perhaps other economic factors contributed, but the events likely are related. Music downloaded for free from the Internet is a close substitute for purchased music; many people are bound to keep the downloaded files without buying originals. That is exactly what Gonzalez did for at least 30 songs. It is no surprise, therefore, that the only appellate decision on point has held that downloading copyrighted songs cannot be defended as fair use, whether or not the recipient plans to buy songs she likes well enough to spring for. See *A & M Records, Inc. v. Napster, Inc.*, 239 F.3d 1004, 1014-19 (9th Cir.2001). See also *UMG Recordings, Inc. v. MP3.com, Inc.*, 92 F.Supp.2d 349 (S.D.N.Y.2000) (holding that downloads are not fair use even if the downloader *already* owns one purchased copy).

Although BMG Music sought damages for only the 30 songs that Gonzalez concedes she has never purchased, all 1,000+ of her downloads violated the statute. All created copies of an entire work. All undermined the means by which authors seek to profit. Gonzalez proceeds as if the authors' only interest were in selling compact discs containing collections of works. Not so; there is also a market in ways to introduce potential consumers to music.

Think of radio. Authors and publishers collect royalties on the broadcast of recorded music, even though these broadcasts may boost sales. See *Broadcast Music, Inc. v. Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.*, 441 U.S. 1, 99 S.Ct. 1551, 60 L.Ed.2d 1 (1979) (discussing the licenses available from performing rights societies for radio and television broadcasts). Downloads from peer-to-peer networks such as KaZaA compete with licensed broadcasts

and hence undermine the income available to authors. This is true even if a particular person never buys recorded media. Cf. *United States v. Slater*, 348 F.3d 666 (7th Cir.2003). Many radio stations stream their content over the Internet, paying a fee for the right to do so. Gonzalez could have listened to this streaming music to sample songs for purchase; had she done so, the authors would have received royalties from the broadcasters (and reduced the risk that files saved to disk would diminish the urge to pay for the music in the end).

Licensed Internet sellers, such as the iTunes Music Store, offer samples--but again they pay authors a fee for the right to do so, and the teasers are just a portion of the original. Other intermediaries (not only Yahoo! Music Unlimited and Real Rhapsody but also the revived Napster, with a new business model) offer licensed access to large collections of music; customers may rent the whole library by the month or year, sample them all, and purchase any songs they want to keep. New technologies, such as SNOCAP, enable authorized trials over peer-to-peer systems. See Saul Hansell, *Putting the Napster Genie Back in the Bottle*, New York Times (Nov. 20, 2005); see also http: //www.snocap.com.

Authorized previews share the feature of evanescence: if a listener decides not to buy (or stops paying the rental fee), no copy remains behind. With all of these means available to consumers who want to choose where to spend their money, downloading full copies of copyrighted material without compensation to authors cannot be deemed "fair use." Copyright law lets authors make their own decisions about how best to promote their works; copiers such as Gonzalez cannot ask courts (and juries) to second-guess the market and call wholesale

copying "fair use" if they think that authors err in understanding their own economic interests or that Congress erred in granting authors the rights in the copyright statute. Nor can she defend by observing that other persons were greater offenders; Gonzalez's theme that she obtained "only 30" (or "only 1,300") copyrighted songs is no more relevant than a thief's contention that he shoplifted "only 30" compact discs, planning to listen to them at home and pay later for any he liked.

BMG Music elected to seek statutory damages under 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(1) instead of proving actual injury. This section provides that the author's entitlement, per infringed work, is "a sum of not less than $750 or more than $30,000 as the court considers just." But if an "infringer sustains the burden of proving, and the court finds, that such infringer was not aware and had no reason to believe that his or her acts constituted an infringement of copyright, the court in its discretion may reduce the award of statutory damages to a sum of not less than $200." 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2). Gonzalez asked the district court to reduce the award under this proviso, but the judge concluded that § 402(d) bars any reduction in the minimum award. This subsection provides: "If a notice of copyright in the form and position specified by this section appears on the published phonorecord or phonorecords to which a defendant in a copyright infringement suit had access, then no weight shall be given to such a defendant's interposition of a defense based on innocent infringement in mitigation of actual or statutory damages". It is undisputed that BMG Music gave copyright notice as required--"on the surface of the phonorecord, or on the phonorecord label or container" (§ 402(c)). It is likewise undisputed that Gonzalez had "access" to records and compact disks bearing the proper notice. She downloaded

data rather than discs, and the data lacked copyright notices, but the statutory question is whether "access" to legitimate works was available rather than whether infringers earlier in the chain attached copyright notices to the pirated works. Gonzalez readily could have learned, had she inquired, that the music was under copyright.

If BMG Music had requested more than $750 per work, then Gonzalez would have been entitled to a trial. See *Feltner v. Columbia Pictures Television, Inc.*, 523 U.S. 340, 118 S.Ct. 1279, 140 L.Ed.2d 438 (1998). What number between $750 and $30,000 is "just" recompense is a question for the jury, unless both sides agree to decision by the court. But BMG Music was content with $750 per song, which the district judge awarded on summary judgment. Gonzalez contends that this was improper: *Feltner*, she contends, holds that a jury must decide whether even the statutory minimum award will be allowed.

Feltner holds that a claim for statutory damages under § 504(c) is a suit at law to which the seventh amendment applies. This does not mean, however, that a jury must resolve every dispute. When there are no disputes of material fact, the court may enter summary judgment without transgressing the Constitution. See *Fidelity & Deposit Co. v. United States*, 187 U.S. 315, 23 S.Ct. 120, 47 L.Ed. 194 (1902). See also *Galloway v. United States*, 319 U.S. 372, 63 S.Ct. 1077, 87 L.Ed. 1458 (1943); *Gasoline Products Co. v. Champlin Refining Co.*, 283 U.S. 494, 51 S.Ct. 513, 75 L.Ed. 1188 (1931). While acknowledging this proposition, Gonzalez insists that copyright cases are different. She relies entirely on a single passage from *Feltner* : "The right to a jury trial includes the right to have a jury determine the *amount* of statutory

damages, if any, awarded to the copyright owner." 523 U.S. at 353, 118 S.Ct. 1279 (emphasis in original). Gonzalez maintains that by adding "if any" the Court allowed a jury to send an author home empty handed, even if the statute makes $750 the minimum. In other words, she contends that *Feltner* creates a system of jury nullification unique to copyright litigation.

The Justices did not purport to give defendants in copyright cases the right to ask jurors to return verdicts in the teeth of the law. The sentence we have quoted is a general description of the jury's role, which the Court drew from seventeenth-century English jurisprudence. That's hardly a plausible source for a rule unique to American copyright law. In *Feltner* neither side had sought summary judgment. We read *Feltner* as establishing no more (and no less) than that cases under § 504(c) are normal civil actions subject to the normal allocation of functions between judge and jury. When there is a material dispute of fact to be resolved or discretion to be exercised in selecting a financial award, then either side is entitled to a jury; if there is no material dispute and a rule of law eliminates discretion in selecting the remedy, then summary judgment is permissible. See *Segrets, Inc. v. Gillman Knitwear Co.*, 207 F.3d 56, 65 n. 7 (1st Cir.2000).

Gonzalez says that the ninth circuit understood *Feltner* differently on remand, but that's mistaken. A jury trial was held--for there were material factual disputes--and the jury returned a verdict of $31.68 million in statutory damages (or $72,000 per infringed work, an award made possible by the jury's conclusion that infringement had been wilful). The defendant, ruing its Pyrrhic victory in the Supreme Court (the judge's original award, which the Court vacated, had been $8.8 million), maintained that §

504(c) is unconstitutional, and that only actual damages may be awarded, because § 504(c) does not provide for a jury trial. The court of appeals rejected that contention, noting that after the Supreme Court's decision a jury trial had been held. See *Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. v. Krypton Broadcasting of Birmingham, Inc.*, 259 F.3d 1186, 1192-93 (9th Cir.2001). Whether a jury resolves the dispute because of statutory language or because of the seventh amendment is all the same to the litigants. It is not possible to find, in a decision affirming a jury's verdict, a rule of law that a jury is required even when there are no factual disputes to resolve and no discretion to exercise.

As for the injunction: Gonzalez contends that this should be vacated because she has learned her lesson, has dropped her broadband access to the Internet, and is unlikely to download copyrighted material again. A private party's discontinuation of unlawful conduct does not make the dispute moot, however. An injunction remains appropriate to ensure that the misconduct does not recur as soon as the case ends. See *United States v. W.T. Grant Co.*, 345 U.S. 629, 73 S.Ct. 894, 97 L.Ed. 1303 (1953). The district court did not abuse its discretion in awarding prospective relief.

AFFIRMED.

ORDER of THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

BMG MUSIC, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

03 C 6276
Blanche M. Manning
District Court Judge

v.

CECILIA GONZALEZ,

Defendant-Appellant.

Decided January 7, 2005.

Plaintiffs BMG Music, Sony Entertainment Inc., UMG Recordings, Inc., Fonovisa, Inc. and Atlantic Recording Corp. ("the Recording Companies") brought this action against Defendant Cecilia Gonzalez alleging that she infringed their copyrighted music recordings, in violation ot 17 U.S.C § 101 et seq., by downloading 30 songs onto her home computer. After limited discovery, the Recording Companies now move for summary judgment.

The relevant facts in this case are not in dispute. Gonzalez admits that she infringed upon the Recording Companies' copyrights by downloading 30 songs from the internet which she did not own. Numerous courts have held that downloading music from the internet, which the user does not own, constitutes "direct infringement." *In re Aimster Copyright Lit.*, 334 F.3d 643, 645 (7th Cir. 2003); *A&M Records, Inc. v. Napster*, 293 F.3d 1004, 1014 (9th Cir. 2001)' *Elektra Entertainment Group, Inc. v. Bryant*, 2004 WL 78123, at *4 (C.D.Cal. Feb. 13, 2004). Gonzalez, however, contends that summary judgment is

not appropriate because there are genuine issues of fact as to whether: (1) the "fair use" defense (17 U.S.C. § 107) is applicable; and (2) she is entitled to assert the "innocent infringer" defense with respect to damages. Gonzalez asserts that the "fair use" defense applies because she: (1) was just "sampling" the songs to determine if she wanted to purchase them; (2) already owned many of the songs she downloaded; and (3) did not cause any financial harm by downloading 30 songs. These contentions are without merit. First, the Ninth Circuit in *A & M Records, Inc.*, 239 F.3d at 1014-19, rejected the argument that "sampling" by direct infringers is a "fair use." Second, the contention that Gonzalez already owned some of the recordings she downloaded is not relevant because the Recording Companies only seek redress for songs that Gonzalez admits she did not own. Finally, the court in *A & M Records, Inc.* held that the cumulative effect of direct infringers, like Gonzalez, harms the recording industry by reducing sales and "raising barriers" to the recording industry's "entry into the market for digital downloading of music." *Id.* at 1016. Accordingly, the Court GRANTS summary judgment on the infringement claim.

As for Gonzalez's contention that she is entitled to proceed to trial on damages, this argument likewise fails. She contends that even the minimum statutory damages, which are all the Recording Companies are seeking, are too high because there is an issue of fact as to whether she was an "innocent" infringer under 17 U.S.C. 504(c)(2), which gives courts "discretion" to award damages of only $200, where the infringer proves that she "was not aware and had no reason to believe that ... her acts constituted infringement." Under section 402(d), however, the "innocent" infringement defense is not applicable "[i]f a

notice of copyright in the form and position specified by this section appears on the published [recordings] to which [the infringer] *had access.*" (Emphasis added.) While it is undisputed that the copyrights of 30 songs at issue were properly noticed on the covers of CDs, Gonzalez contends that she has raised a question of fact as to whether she had access to the notice. Although it is true that Gonzalez did not have actual possession of these CDs, section 402(d) does not require proof that the infringer had "actual possession." 2 *Nimmer on Copyright*, § 7.02[C][3], at 7-17 n. 25 (2004). Instead, the plaintiff need only show that the CDs with notice "were in circulation [and] available" to the infringer. *Id. See also Boisson v. Banian Ltd.*, 280 F.Supp.2d 10, 17 (E.D.N.Y.2003) ("innocent infringer" defense not applicable where defendant "had reason to be aware of the infringement"); *Broadcast Music, Inc. v. Arlos*, 682 F.Supp. 1, 2 (D.Mass.1986) (finding that simply claiming "ignorance" is not sufficient to raise a genuine issue of fact for a showing under section 402(d)"). Accordingly, because it is undisputed that the copyrights of the 30 songs at issue were properly noticed on the covers of the CDs, there is no question of fact as to whether Gonzalez had "access" to notice of the copyrights. Indeed, Ganzalez admits that she and her husband have legally purchased over 200 CDs. To allow Gonzalez to assert this defense based on her ignorance would eviscerate copyright protection and the old adage that "ignorance is no defense to the law." This Court thus holds that she is not entitled to the innocent infringer defense and awards the Record Companies $22,500 (30 songs times the minimum statutory penalty ($750)).

Finally, Gonzalez contends that injunctive relief is not appropriate because she no longer has on-line access. and therefore, she does not present a risk of future

infringement. There is nothing, however, to stop her from reconnecting to the internet and resuming her infringement. Consequently, this Court follows the lead of other courts and issues an injunction, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502(a), prohibiting Gonzalez from downloading recordings owned by the Recording Companies. *See, e.g., In re Amister Copyright Lit.*, 334 F.3d at 654-55; *Elektra Entertainment Group, Inc.*, 2004 WL 783123, at *6-7. The Court therefore GRANTS the Recording Companies' Motion for Summary Judgment [23-1].